

SURVEY OF THE AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS IN  
SELECTED SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

The following pages contain a general evaluation of the availability of publications in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatamala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Also included is a detailed analysis of the more useful book stores in the capital cities of these countries (and Sao Paulo) visited by two U.S. officials on their trip, February-April 1960.

During the conduct of this survey, an important assignment to the two making the survey was to determine the amount and types of Communist publications available in the area. An asterisk (\*) before the name of a bookstore indicates that it is an outlet which carries a significant quantity of Communist or pro-Communist material. Where such a store is an outright Communist outlet, controlled either by the local party or a Bloc nation, this is so stated.

The term "general store" indicates that the outlet carries a diversified stock, including such material as reference books, dictionaries, serious political and economic works, books on international relations, school books, university texts, novels, poetry, art, etc.

The term "kiosks" is used to indicate newsstands or other open air stands, usually individually located on street corners or in arcades in a block of stores; sometimes clustered in a sort of specialized market, usually called a Feria del Libro. Such kiosks are often the best outlets for Communist publications aimed at the local workers, and they are often the source of out-of-print and other hard-to-find material. Latin American cities abound with such kiosks, and they are worthy of special attention, not only for this type of material but also for the many periodicals and newspapers (which bookstores often do not stock) not always available on regular subscription. Usually not named, and without an official street address, these kiosks are highly important sources of publications throughout Latin America.

AVAILABILITY AND SOURCES OF PUBLICATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

The publications industry in Latin America varies markedly in size and quality from country to country, and the bookstores vary to the same degree. Without a doubt, Buenos Aires is the largest publishing center in the area, and Argentine publications receive wide distribution throughout Latin America. The second major publishing center is Mexico City, and third in order of importance is Santiago, Chile. However, while Argentine books are available in considerable numbers in every city we visited, and while Mexican publications do achieve a general, although somewhat lesser, distribution in the area, the publications of other countries throughout Latin America are pretty generally restricted to their country of origin. In Brazil, the publications, of course, are in Portuguese; and, from the standpoint of the customers of the U.S. Publications Procurement Program, Sao Paulo is perhaps its most important center and of greater significance than Rio de Janeiro. However, Rio is the main source of Brazilian Government publications and will continue to be so until the transfer of agencies to the new capital of Brasilia has been completed. While there were a considerable number of Spanish language publications available in Brazil, there were virtually no Brazilian publications available in other Latin American countries. In addition, it should be noted that many of the bookstores which we visited throughout Latin America carried some small quantity of publications from Spain. The majority of these tended to be in the field of classical literature.

As publications centers of secondary importance in size, one should note Montevideo, Lima and Caracas. Montevideo, however, derives its importance to the Publications Program not so much from the indigenous publications as from the fact that it well may be the most important center in Latin America for the importation and distribution of Soviet and other Communist Bloc literature and propaganda. Panama and Guatemala produce a few publications of interest outside of the newspaper field and government publications. The booksellers in Guatemala City, Panama City, and Colón are very few in number, small in size, and their stores usually combine books with the selling of stationery and school supplies. The countries which we visited (other than Guatemala and Panama) all contain bookstores of which some are restricted to comparatively new books, some handle only secondhand publications, and some carry both.

From the standpoint of availability, Buenos Aires appears to have the largest number of worthwhile bookstores, with Mexico City second, Santiago, Sao Paulo, and Rio third, and Lima, Montevideo, and Caracas with lesser numbers. From the standpoint of the customer of the Publications Procurement Program, most of the cities we visited offer publications of considerable interest in the fields of politics, international relations, and economics. These publications run the full ideological gamut from right to far left. In addition, one must stress the availability of periodicals of interest throughout Latin America. These also range the full ideological spectrum and are of particular interest in the fields of politics, international relations, and economics. These are available to some extent in bookstores, and to an even greater extent on the newsstands and kiosks which abound on the street corners of Latin American cities. While subscriptions to a great many Latin American

periodicals and newspapers have been received in the State Department over the past years through specific orders placed with our Embassies there, we found and have brought back samples of many new periodicals which have commenced publishing in the last few months, and which appear to have considerable value for the customers of the Publications Program. It should be noted that, in several of the cities which we visited, the standard pro-Castro Cuban periodicals were readily available--in particular Bohemia and Carteles, as well as INRA, the new publication of the Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria (National Agrarian Reform Institute).

Of particular importance in certain cities in Latin America are the well stocked Communist Party stores. Of these, the best are Livraria das Bandeiras in Sao Paulo and Libreria EPU (Ediciones Pueblos Unidos) in Montevideo. Slightly behind these two in quality and quantity is Distribuidora Magrija in Caracas. Other Party outlets in Mexico City, Santiago, and Rio do not measure up to these three, either in quantity or quality, although Fondo de la Cultura Popular in Mexico City runs a close fourth.

These stores, particularly those in Sao Paulo, Montevideo, and Caracas, carry an excellent stock of not only local Party material and books by local Communists and fellow travellers on varying subjects of Latin American interest, but also carry full stocks of the standard publications of the Foreign Languages Publishing House in Moscow (including all of the Communist classics), and the publications of the Foreign Languages Press in Peking through the year 1959. While many of these publications are in Spanish, editions in other languages (generally English or French) are sold when Spanish translations are not available. There is comparatively little of this material published in Portuguese. In addition, Mexico City and Montevideo each have a bookstore which appears to be almost purely a Soviet outlet, but with a smattering of Chinese Communist publications as well.

Many Communist publications (both Soviet Bloc and local) are also available, mixed in with the general stock, in a good many of the other bookstores we visited. This is particularly true in the Argentine, where the police have locked and sealed the Communist Party headquarters and the bookstore it contains.

It should be noted that the overwhelming majority of useful publications in Latin America deal with problems and subjects indigenous to that area. We found virtually nothing useful of Latin American origin on other areas of the world. With one or two exceptions, there was nothing useful originating in Latin America on the subject of the Soviet Union or its technological advances. However, the publications available in Latin America on the area itself are of the greatest importance to those analysts and other customers of the Publications Program who are working on Latin American problems, and they are available in such profusion as to require the continual attention of the Publications Officers in making them available to the program's customers.

A detailed country-by-country breakdown describing the major useful bookstores in each country we visited, and their specialities, is appended.

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ARGENTINA

## A) General Availability

Seven days were devoted to briefing, surveying and purchasing in Buenos Aires. Due to the intervening weekend, only six days were actually available for our canvass of the bookstores, but many stores were open until late in the evenings (a few as late as 1 AM) and, because of the great number of stores, the extent of the publishing industry, and the geographical spread of the city, we customarily worked until the last store had closed.

Argentina is undoubtedly the publishing center of Latin America. Despite the recent internal strife and the consequent disruption of the normal patterns of business and life, it retains its preeminent place in the field of publishing. Argentine books are to be found in quantity throughout Latin America, rivalled only by Mexican publications and some few Chilean works (neither of which really approach the Argentine in sheer quantity outside their own borders; Sao Paulo, while also a major center, restricts its sales to Brazil and possibly Portugal, because of the language difference). Everything is published in Argentina, from the sleaziest paperbacks to the finest books and periodicals in the fields of politics, economics, medicine, law, philosophy and literature. Argentina is the only Latin American country, for example, producing economic and political periodicals of hemisphere-wide significance in any quantity, and is one of the few to produce more than one news periodical of the class of the US publications "Time" and "Newsweek." Here, too, are to be found many of the more important works of US, European and other Latin American authors, both in the original language and in translation. Some of these latter publications are imported, but many (if not most) are locally produced editions. However, a provision of Argentine law, we are told, tends to restrict the import-export trade in books. That is, while Argentine books may be generally exported and foreign publications can usually be imported, there are certain restrictions particularly on the re-export of imported books. More than one dealer informed us that they were unwilling to undertake the shipment of publications direct to the US or other countries because of the difficulties involved in getting the necessary permits, particularly to export foreign publications which the book-seller stocks.

The recent crackdown by the Argentine government on the local Communists has severely limited, but by no means put an end to, the publications activities of that political group. There are on the local market many publications which, if not actually Communist, are of a very radical Leftist line and adhere closely to the thought patterns of the Communists. In addition, nearly every kiosk and newstand in the city carries Soviet Bloc and Chicom propaganda publications such as URSS, Revista de GDR, China Reconstruye, etc. The Soviet Embassy, we were told, has been and continues to be very active in pushing the distribution and sale of this latter type of material.

Anti-Communist publications, too, appear in relatively large quantity. AGORA is a major publisher of this type of material, mostly in translation of US titles. AGORA maintains a large and well-organized establishment, but sells only to the bookstores and not to the public. This firm, for example, produces

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a Spanish language abridgment of Dallin's Soviet Espionage.

An interesting development in the area of availability is the recent organization of a publishers' cooperative, operating under the name CODILIBRO, which offers through one central source the product of approximately fifteen Argentine publishers. This group plans to open at least one retail outlet in Buenos Aires in the near future, but at present it acts only as a clearing-house for orders of books of its member firms. CODILIBRO is currently being supervised by a Mr. Jean-George Kirchheimer, owner of the Libreria Mandragora (specializing in the sale of French publications) and a former member of the French Military Government staff in Germany. According to Kirchheimer, the CODILIBRO cooperative undertakes to sell its members' publications but exercises no editorial control over their offerings. As a consequence, the association members range from quite conservative to quite radical Leftist in their publishing policies and in the material they offer for sale. A CODILIBRO catalog, plus separate catalogs of the individual members, were provided by Mr. Kirchheimer, who further informed us that CODILIBRO (Suipacha 612, Buenos Aires) is prepared to ship books abroad and has, indeed, already made some sales in Mexico.

Periodical publications, totally aside from newspapers, abound in Buenos Aires. Sample copies of about ten publications new to us were acquired and will be circulated to Washington analysts. While a few of these are apparently publications of long standing of which we were previously unaware, many are totally or relatively new titles of which only one or two issues have appeared. Among these were such publications as Situación (a new Leftist monthly of political and economic commentary; very anti-US and closely follows the Communist line; Issue No. 1, March 1960, is predominantly Prensa Latina material); Expresión (a quarterly political review of the Communist-front Liga Argentina por los Derechos del Hombre -- Argentine League for the Rights of Man); Revista de Política Internacional (a conservatively inclined monthly review of international politics which appears friendly to the US); Clave (a leftist, probably Socialist, monthly review of politics and economics); and Suma (a new economic review published by the Instituto de Cultura Economica, Buenos Aires).

Buenos Aires also features a small shop specializing in dictionaries and grammars in all languages. Although small in size, the shop has an excellent and varied stock of this material. The owner informed us that he is fully prepared to supply any dictionary or grammar available anywhere in the world in any combination of languages. He further informed us, with considerable pride, that there were only three other such establishments in the world, one each in New York, London, and Paris. This shop, known as LA CASA DE LOS DICCIONARIOS, advertises dictionaries in thirty different languages, and states that he is prepared to ship books abroad on request.

#### B) Retail Outlets

The following are a few representative samples of the many excellent sources in Buenos Aires. No purely Communist outlet was found operating openly at this time.

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- 1) CASA DE LOS DICCIONARIOS  
Tucuman 844

Specializes in dictionaries and grammar; see Section A, above, for further comment.

- \*2) CODILIBRO  
Suipacha 612

A cooperative distributorship for about 15 Argentine publishers; political slant ranges from far Right to far Left; see Section A, above, for further comment.

- \*3) LIBRERIA TABARE  
Corrientes 1650

A secondhand book shop; section in rear has large, well-organized, neatly segregated collection of Communist works; most from FLPH (Moscow), but some local also; good source for this material; good source for out-of-print and other hard-to-find older books.

- 4) EDITORIAL AGORA  
S. Salguero 32

Publishing house (not a retail store) who normally sells only to dealers, but can be (and was) persuaded to sell direct to us); specializes in books exposing Communism and Soviet duplicity; good material.

- 5) EDITORIAL KRAFT  
Reconquista 319-327

A publisher and general store dealing largely in the purely cultural material. However, publishes 4-volume "Anuario Kraft," an Argentine yearbook of the Who's Who type; previously published an international yearbook, but this is now defunct. These are the best, and almost the only, annuals of this type available in Latin America -- the suspended international edition may be revived in the future.

- \*6) LIBRERIA ESOPH  
Corrientes 579

An excellent general store; carries some pro- and some anti-Communist material; store remains open until midnight or 1 AM daily except Sunday.

- 7) LIBRERIA EL ATENEO  
Florida 340

Good general store; large stock but poor staff; much law, many dictionaries, good assortment of political and economic, as well as purely cultural, material.

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## 8) KIOSKS

Kiosks and newstands dot the city. Avenida Florida, closed to vehicular traffic during the day, has many both on street and in adjoining arcades; many more on Ave. 25 de Mayo. Kiosks carry publications mentioned in Section A, above, and many others of possible interest; nearly all stock Soviet and Chicom propaganda pictorials and cultural periodicals.

## C) Bibliographic Aids

In common with most of Latin America, reliable bibliographic references are very scarce in Argentina. The Boletin Bibliografico Nacional, previously published by the Ministerio de Educacion, has ceased publication "temporarily", but no definite word was available on its expected revival.

Two new publications in this field have started up. One, the catalog of the Camara Tecnico del Libro (publication bears same name), lists publishers and bookdealers specializing in technical books only. Its periodicity is uncertain at this time, but it is likely to be a quarterly. The Publications Officer has sent sample copies to Washington. The other bears the title Biblos and is the trade journal of the remaining (non-technical) publishers. We were unable to obtain copies while in Buenos Aires, but have requested the Publications Officer to obtain and forward this publication. The Camara Tecnico Del Libro is located at Venezuela 668, Buenos Aires, while the non-technical group (known simply as Camara Del Libro) is located at Sarmiento 528, Buenos Aires. Local reports are that relations between these two trade associations are not of the best, and each disparages the other's publication.

Again, even in this principal publications center of Latin America, adequate coverage can be obtained solely by physical canvassing of the bookstores and kiosks due to the lack of proper bibliographic tools. Many publishers offer sporadic lists of current offerings, and copies were obtained wherever possible. The CODILIBRO catalog offers a fairly wide selection, but even this does not include all of the publications available from its members. An adequate, nationwide bibliographic reference simply does not exist at the present time.

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## BRAZIL

### A) General Availability

Being somewhat pressed for time at this juncture in our trip, we acceded to geographic convenience and visited Sao Paulo prior to Rio de Janeiro. These two cities will be discussed separately.

Sao Paulo is, despite the triteness of the expression, a rather fabulous city. The economic development here is far better described as an explosion than as a mere expansion; Sao Paulo is, industrially and economically, the "tail that wags the Brazilian dog". In consequence, Sao Paulo is, beyond question, the major publishing center of Brazil, and one of the major publishing centers of Latin America. In comparison, and with the sole exception of official government publications (many of which are also available in Sao Paulo), Rio de Janeiro pales to insignificance. Not only books but many excellent periodicals in the fields of economics and politics are published here. Here, too, we found one of (if not the) best-stocked and best-organized Communist Party bookstores in all Latin America....only the Party stores in Montevideo and Caracas approach it in excellence. Due to the limitation on our time, (and in the mistaken impression that Rio would be more fruitful than it in fact proved to be), we were able to devote only three days to Sao Paulo.

Rio de Janeiro, aside from the official government publications, actually has little to offer. Only a few publishers operate here, and most privately published material comes from Sao Paulo sources. We found only one really good bookstore in Rio, although there are many stores and kiosks throughout the downtown area and in Copacabana. One dealer in Rio specializes in Russian-language publications of the Foreign Languages Publishing House (FLPH), Moscow, but the local Communist Party bookstore is perhaps the poorest we encountered anywhere, and, indeed, many general stores in other Latin American cities carried a greater quantity and variety of Communist publications. Rio does, however, remain the best source of government publications, (and will continue to be so until all the moves to the new capital at Brasilia are completed). The Getulio Vargas Institute is a local source of good-quality economic and political studies. An interesting facet of the Rio book market (see below), is the series of publishers' kiosks in the Praca da Armas, about one block from the US Embassy.

### B) Retail Outlets

The following are the more fruitful outlets in SAO PAULO:

#### \*1) LIVRARIA DAS BANDEIRAS Rua Riachuelo 342

One of, if not the, best Communist Party stores in Latin America; excellent stock of local, Soviet, Bloc and Chicom material; Chicom material except cultural items, not more recent than December 1959.



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No difficulty entering and buying here. NB:- Comparatively little material found in Portuguese except local products; both Soviet and Chicom sources provide most material in Spanish, French or English; dealer says Portuguese editions slowly increasing from these sources.

\*2) LIVRARIA BRASILIENSE

Rue Barao de Itapetininga, 93-99

A good general store; some Communist and pro-Communist material; good on dictionaries, law, economics, current politics; carries some periodicals; much anti-Communist material.

3) LIVRARIA FREITAS BASTOS

15 de Novembre, 62-66

An excellent general store; carries books about Communism (mostly anti-Communist) but no Communist books per se. Excellent law collection.

4) KIOSKS

The city is liberally spotted with newstands and kiosks; most carry some Communist material and some anti-Communist material. A survey in the industrial quarter did not reveal any special concentration of local Party or other Communist material here. Most such items are available on kiosks (and in stores) in the center of the city.

The following are the more fruitful outlets in RIO DE JANEIRO:

1) LIVRARIA LER

Rua Mexico 31-A

An excellent general store; some few pro-Communist publications, much anti-Communist material; good for dictionaries, general economics and political items, law, general cultural items.

2) KIOSKS

The city has many kiosks and newstands, all of which carry some pro- and some anti-Communist material; pro-Communist material less in evidence here than in Sao Paulo.

Worthy of special mention, the series of about eight kiosks located in a row on the Praça de Armas. Each major publisher has a tiny, triangular stand here and this is probably the best source of Communist publications (among others) in Rio; the Communist publisher, EDITORIAL VITORIA, has a kiosk here. (VITORIA's actual store, the local Party outlet, is located at Rua Juan Pablo Duarte 50 and is perhaps one of the poorest collections of useless and outdated Communist material we encountered. Their kiosk is, although not too good, far more fruitful.)

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\*3) INTUNLIV  
Rua Senador Dantas 93 (upstairs)

Specializes in Russian-language publications of FLPH, Moscow;  
owner is outspokenly pro-Communist and pro-Soviet; appears to  
be a Russian immigrant.

C) Bibliographic Aids

In common with the rest of Latin America, Brazil is extremely deficient in bibliographic aids of any sort. The only reasonably good publication in the field is the Boletim Bibliografico Brasileiro of the Uniao Brasileira de Escritores, which last appeared in October, 1959. We were unable to discover definitely if this publication would be published again in 1960. The newly appointed Publications Officer in Sao Paulo, where the organization is located, will look into the matter further. A very few publishers and bookstores make available a sporadic and spotty list of current offerings. These are not only irregular and unreliable in their periodicity, but extremely limited in their utility and content. Again, there is no substitute for a physical canvass of stores and publishers if this important source of publications is to be adequately covered. This canvassing must be done in both Rio and Sao Paulo, and it would probably be fruitful to make a canvass of the less important center of Porto Alegre (which, due to limitations on our time, we were unable to visit).

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CHILEA) General Availability

One full week was devoted to briefing, surveying and purchasing in Santiago, which is a fairly active and important publishing center. However, in March, when we were there, the industry was relatively inactive. It appears to be the local practice drastically to reduce activity during their summer months, and we were told that several publishers had new books in their warehouses, or still on the presses, which would not be released for sale until April or May. Nevertheless, all bookstores were open, and we were able to make a goodly number of purchases and canvas more than thirty outlets of varying political coloration, plus numerous kiosks and newstands.

Some Communist and pro-Communist publications, both local and foreign, are available in most bookstores in Santiago. There are, however, four outlets which devote their shelves almost entirely to this material, one of which is the kiosk in the doorway of the Chilean Communist Party headquarters. Here, as in the other major Communist outlets, we encountered no difficulty in entering and making purchases of some local Chilean Communist Party publications, despite the obvious fact that we were "gringos." Indeed, even in the Chilean-Soviet Cultural Institute, although we did not get past the second floor reception desk, we were politely received and were able not only to purchase books but to get answers to a few questions on availability of other publications. At the Chilean-Communist Chinese Friendship Society, however, we made no purchases for the double reason that the atmosphere was something less than cordial and few publications of any sort were in evidence. In Santiago, as elsewhere on this trip, we found that nothing was available from Communist China after 1 January 1960 except for the cultural propaganda publications which are still available throughout the world (i.e., China Reconstructs, China Today, etc.).

In checking on the availability of certain bibliographic aids which had not been received in Washington for some time, we discovered (as in Lima) that local publishing costs, largely due to the extremely high cost of paper, were prohibitive and were having a distinct braking effect on the local industry. We were informed, however, that the President of Chile (Alessandri) was taking steps to break up the existing monopoly in the paper industry, and that this was expected to lower costs and stimulate the publishing industry. Illustrative of the high paper costs, we were told by one of the principal bookdealers that a small blank pad of white paper (somewhat smaller than our standard 5 x 8 pad) cost him the equivalent of twenty-two cents (US).

B) Retail Outlets

In Santiago, the more fruitful outlets are all within a few blocks of the Embassy. The following, while representing only a small portion of the outlets visited, are typical of the more fruitful sources.

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\*1) LIBRERIA AURAUCO  
Santo Domingo 216

Almost exclusively Communist material; mostly Soviet, some local, and a very few Chinese Communist publications. Much of the Chicom material is in English.

\*2) LIBRERIA MARIA DARRE  
Teatinos 416

A kiosk in the doorway of the Chilean Communist Party headquarters. Small but good stock; mostly local Party publications with some Soviet - no Chicom material noted. No problem entering and buying.

\*3) LIBRERIA ORBE  
Agustinas, between Estado  
and San Antonio (Galeria  
Imperio, 255)

Described as Communist outlet, but more a general store with some Soviet and local Communist material; only Russian-Spanish Grammar available in town found here (a translation of a British English-Russian grammar). Can't fairly describe this as a Communist outlet.

4) LIBRERIA/EDITORIAL DEL PACIFICO  
Ahumada 57

A good general store; large diversified stock of reference works, political and economic publications, and cultural material.

5) LIBRERIA PAX  
Huerfanos 756-772

A good, varied general store; many technical books, mostly translations of U.S., British, German, French authors.

\*6) FERIA DEL LIBRO (Local #7)  
Alameda Bernado O'Higgins  
(Between Estado and the  
Biblioteca Nacional)

Consists of several open air stands. Stand ("Local") #7, directly on street at corner nearest Biblioteca, very heavy on used Communist publications; has some new books, many current periodicals, all Communist; most sold very cheaply and customers consist of workers and school children for the most part. Excellent source for local and Soviet materials, some Chicom material.

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7) LIBRERIA UNIVERSITARIA  
Alameda Bernado O'Higgins 1058

The bookstore of the Universidad Nacional de Chile. A good general store with some Marxist publications mixed in with texts. One book on Castro, one economic periodical, one new Marxist periodical found here (among others).

C) Bibliographic Aids

High publishing costs, largely due to the aforementioned high cost of paper, has eliminated many of the previously existing bibliographic publications. Only one private publisher (ZAMORANO y CAPELAN, Compania 1015) still publishes such a work, and this, the Servicio Bibliografico Chileno, appears only quarterly and is by no means a complete listing. Señor Zamorano told us that they may be forced to suspend publication if paper costs continue at their current high level, but the firm is reluctant to see the end of what is now the oldest work of its kind in continuous existence in Chile. Zamorano has agreed to mail copies of this publication direct to the Department of State in Washington.

The Biblioteca Central (which formerly published the Anuario de Publicaciones Periodicas Chilenas) not only no longer publishes the work, but no one there seemed even to remember that they had ever published it. Neither the Biblioteca Nacional nor the Biblioteca Universitaria admitted to any knowledge of the supposedly annual list of the Deposito Legal, a governmental listing of all publications printed in Chile during the year. Editorial del Pacifico, Editorial Horizonte, Biblioteca de la Universidad Nacional, and the Servicio Nacional de Estadisticos y Censos have all apparently suspended publication of their annuals.

Some few publishers (notably Editorial del Pacifico) publish a list of current offerings at irregular intervals. A few of these dealers' "catalogs" were acquired and the Publications Officer was requested to obtain and forward future issues when, and if, they appear. In short, adequate coverage in Santiago can only be had by a physical canvass of the stores at frequent (due to the limited editions in which most books appear) and regular intervals.

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## GUATEMALA

### A) General Availability

As was anticipated, we found very few useful publications available in Guatemala at this time, other than the daily newspapers. The main objective of the stop here was to brief the new Publications Officer on his procurement functions, particularly in view of the increasing Communist efforts to re-establish themselves in this country and the possible increase of Communist publications in Guatemala.

A visit was made to the University of San Carlos Press, where we found that a current publications list is available (copies obtained) and that supplementary sheets are issued at infrequent and irregular intervals. Titles listed consist mostly of brief theses and an occasional book authored by students or professors of the University. We are informed that copies of these publications are supplied on an exchange basis with several US universities, and that copies are sent to the Library of Congress. The Publications Officer was provided with a copy of this current list and requested to scan subsequent supplements (which the University Press has promised to send him) for any titles of possible interest to the program.

Official government publications constitute the only other worthwhile material currently available. These are supplied to the Embassy gratis and sent to the US by the appropriate attaché (political, economic, etc.). The Publications Officer will supply extra copies of any deemed suitable for our special needs. Most will be gratis.

### B) Retail Outlets

There are, currently, no retail outlets worthy of mention in Guatemala. The average "librería" is a combination book, stationery, and school supplies store, or carries a few general books and a heavy stock of schoolbooks. The Publications Officer will periodically visit the few stores in town in order to obtain any significant publication that may appear, but most of the stock is imported. It is anticipated that he will find few, if any, books not available in Mexico or Argentina, their usual sources of publication.

### C) Bibliographic Aids

Other than the very limited list of the San Carlos University Press, no bibliographic aids of any sort are known to exist in Guatemala. The Publications Officer has been alerted to acquire and transmit any that may appear in the future.

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## MEXICO

### A) General Availability

One full week was devoted to briefing, surveying the availability of, and acquiring, publications in Mexico City, the capital, where, typical of most Latin American countries, the overwhelming majority of Mexican publications are actually published and the remainder are generally available. Mexico is one of the major publications centers in Latin America, and one finds here not only Mexican publications, but also those of several other Latin American countries, as well as many US and European publications. Predominating are those of Mexico and the Argentine.

Communist publications, both locally produced and imported, are widely available throughout the city. Most general bookstores and kiosks carry a fairly large and varied stock of Communist and Leftist but non-Communist publications, as well as those of a more conservative hue. There are, in addition, about ten stores in the downtown area (where most of the bookstores are located) which carry a significantly greater proportion of Communist and pro-Communist material than do the other general stores. Soviet, Czech, GDR and Chinese Communist publications make up the bulk of the imported material, but also available are publications of the Argentine and Spanish Communists; some Chilean, French and Italian materials of this type are also to be found; and a growing quantity of Cuban anti-US and Communist-oriented periodicals are available. The purely propaganda Chicom periodical material is available here, but non-propaganda Chicom publications later than the Fall of 1959 do not appear to be on the general market.

Mexico produced many good political and economic publications, several industrial and trade periodicals, and a small but useful quantity of basic reference works of the "annuals" type. Several bookstores and publishers have available, on an irregular basis, lists of currently available stocks, but good bibliographic aids and references are quite scarce. Few, if any, publishers or bookstores can be relied upon to send copies of their lists to either the Embassy Publications Officer or to Washington, making it imperative that the Publications Officer or some other procurement official make frequent and regular calls on these sources in order to keep abreast of the field.

### B) Retail Outlets

The following is a list of the more fruitful bookstores we visited. It by no means represents anything approaching the total number of stores inspected, and is, indeed, only a small part of the total number of retail outlets in Mexico City.

#### \*1) FONDO DE LA CULTURA POPULAR Ave Hidalgo 75-107

(AKA: Editorial Popular). The Mexican Communist Party (PCM) outlet; good stock of local Communist and pro-Communist, Soviet, Chicom, etc. materials; no problems on purchasing here; standard Communist "classics" and local items such as Party statutes, minutes of congresses, etc.; good stock of anti-US

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- \* 2) LIBRERIA JUAREZ  
Ave. Juarez 102

A branch of this store, called LIBRERIA ZAPLANA, is located at Calle San Juan de Letran 41-H; good source of general material; excellent source of local, Spanish, Argentine Communist and pro-Communist material; also stocks anti-Communist material in good proportion.

- \* 3) LIBRERIA NAVARRO  
Calle Seminario 12-B

Mostly old material but some recent books; heavy on Communist and Communist sympathizer material; has huge collection of Communist, pro-Communist, and anarchist publications going back some 30 years in both Latin America, Spain and elsewhere; has indicated willingness to sell this entire private collection to some library or private collector.

- \* 4) LIBERIA DE CRISTAL  
Ave. Juarez; in park  
across from Palacio de  
Bellas Artes. Alamenda Central

Probably the best store for new books; an excellent general store; large stock of both pro- and anti-Communist material; good for general reference works; good stock of Argentine and other publications, including translations of US and other foreign, non-Spanish titles.

- \* 5) LIBRERIA CESAR CICERON  
Calle del Seminario, 10

Good general store; good stock of pro- and anti-Communist material; good general reference works; will mail books, lists, etc. if requested.

- 6) LIBRERIA PORRUA HERMANOS  
Esq. Argentina y Justo Sierra  
(with branch at Ave. Juarez 16)

Good general stores; many law books in Juarez branch; publishes a limited bibliographical reference work on an irregular schedule, but gives impression not very reliable in mailing this.



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- \*7) INSTITUTO INTERCAMBIO CULTURAL  
MEXICANO-RUSO (IICMR)  
Paseo de la Reforma, 128

Bookstore of the Soviet-Mexican cultural and friendship society; offers Communist "classics" (Marx, Lenin, etc.), much cultural material, art work, pro-Soviet propaganda; this is largely material published by Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow and is generally available to us from Moscow.

8) KIOSKS

Mexico City, especially the downtown area between the Ave. Reforma and the Zocalo, abounds with newsstands carrying newspapers and magazines of all types and political coloration. A sort of "Thieves Market" operates on Sunday mornings in one of the poorer districts and contains several tables of second-hand publications, many of which are Communist and pro-Communist.

C) Bibliographic Aids

Bibliographic aids in Mexico are few and far between. Some of the larger retail outlets and a very few publishers offer a partial list of current stocks (usually only latest releases) on a very irregular basis. These, however, cannot be considered true bibliographic publications and their receipt is virtually entirely dependent on the Publications Officer making frequent and regular calls on the store or publisher preparing such a list. One fairly regular list is Boletin Bibliografico Mexicano published on a vaguely quarterly basis by Porrúa Hnos. (See Item #6, Section B, above.) This List, which Porrúa has promised to send to the Embassy Publications Officer (and which the latter has been alerted to solicit), is rather limited in scope and does not give truly national coverage.

A recent publication of the Centro Mexicano de Escritores, entitled Catalogo De Periodicos Mexicanos, is on hand. The publishers express the vague hope that this well-organized (but limited in scope) publication will be periodically revised and brought up to date. They make no commitment, however, on the periodicity of such revisions, and past experience has shown that the majority of such publications in Latin America die young and unannounced; it remains to be seen if this reference will survive.

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PANAMA

A) General Availability

Panama, like Guatemala, is not a major source of publications. Few, if any, books are printed here and locally produced periodicals have been short-lived. Panama is, however, reported to be a distributing center for Soviet Bloc and Chicom publications and for Chicom films. These do not appear to be available on the open market, however, and it is unlikely that the Publications Officer will be able to supply such items.

B) Retail Outlets

Panama City and Colon have only a few bookstores, none of which can be considered of significant value at the present time. Some imported Mexican and Argentine books are available, as well as many US books and other publications. It is felt, however, that the particularly active and interested Publications Officer recently assigned here might utilize a small annual selection fund of about \$25.00 for the purchase of an occasional book or new periodical and to backstop his procurement of government publications where insufficient copies are available gratis.

C) Bibliographic Aids

No bibliographic aids are known to exist in Panama at this time.

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PERU

A) General Availability

Approximately five days were spent in Lima in briefing the Publications Officer, surveying the local market and purchasing publications. (Because of the intervening weekend only four days were actually available for work in the stores.) Lima, while not a publications center of the calibre of Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Santiago, or Sao Paulo, a fact which appears in part due to the high cost of paper and printing, is still a fairly active center in terms of this activity. General stores stock a fairly good number of books by Peruvian authors and, while many are of a cultural nature, a certain percentage are of the types useful to Washington. As elsewhere on the continent, Argentine books appear to predominate and here, for the first time, Chilean publications begin to appear in some quantity. Some political and economic periodicals are published here.

Most, if not all, bookstores in Lima carry a certain amount of Communist and pro-Communist material, but no outlet was found that was clearly a primary source of this material. The local Communist Party newspaper, Unidad, is not available on subscription, appearing in the hands of street vendors only and at irregular intervals. Arrangements were made with the Publications Officer to obtain this publication on a more regular basis than heretofore, and copies have already begun arriving under this arrangement. Other than this newspaper, no local Communist Party publications were encountered, but the customary Communist "classics" are available in most stores.

B) Retail Outlets

As is common in most Latin American cities, the principal bookstores are clustered in a central area of the city, principally within a two-block radius of the Plaza San Martin (although a few are found further out). Some 20-25 stores and many kiosks were inspected. The following brief list contains names and descriptions of the more noteworthy of these stores.

1) LIBRERIA JUAN MEJIA BACA  
Azangaro 722

A good general store; law, basic reference works; some political and economic works both pro- and anti-Communist.

2) LIBRERIA "LA UNIVERSIDAD"  
Nicolas Pierola 639

Perhaps the best general store in Lima; carries both pro- and anti-Communist material (mostly anti-); heavy on local authors; good selection of dictionaries.

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\*3) CENTRAL DE LIBROS Y REVISTAS  
Jiron Camana 681

Cannot be called a Communist outlet in true sense, but had more material than others; most Communist material were the "classic" works; fair general store; had some Bloc propaganda magazines of pictorial type (Sov, GDR, China).

4) GARCILASO  
Belem 1083

A good general store.

C) Bibliographic Aids

The Biblioteca Nacional (National Library) of Peru, located in Lima, published an Anuario Bibliografico Peruano in 1957 which covered the years 1951/52, and a subsequent edition in 1959 which covered the years 1953/54. We are informed that it is hoped that subsequent editions will appear, but that this is by no means certain or even very probable. Beyond this, one finds only a very limited number of booklists put out by a few local stores. These are irregular in their periodicity, and very limited in their scope. Copies of the few available were obtained, and the Publications Officer was requested to forward any subsequent lists that become available.

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## URUGUAY

### A) General Availability

Four days were devoted to Montevideo. While a minor city as far as actual publishing goes, Montevideo looms large in Latin America as one of (if not the) major point-of-entry for Soviet and Bloc propaganda. Some Chicom material was found, but only the usual propaganda publications carried 1960 dates.

Here, too, we found one of the best organized and well-stocked Communist Party stores in Spanish-speaking Latin America, plus another excellent store which dealt almost exclusively with Soviet and other Bloc country publications.

While a relatively small city, Montevideo is liberally supplied with bookstores and newstand-kiosks. We covered about 18 stores and numerous kiosks here. Some few Uruguayan publications, some Chilean and Spanish, many Argentinian, and a few Brazilian publications make up most of the available stock in Montevideo stores aside from the imported Communist material. No difficulty was encountered in entering and purchasing from any Communist source in the city.

### B) Retail Outlets

The following were among the more fruitful outlets in Montevideo.

\*1) EDICIONES PUEBLOS UNIDOS (EPU)  
Colonia 1567

This is the local Party store; stock almost entirely Communist material -- local Party items, much Soviet and other Bloc items, fairly good Chicom stock (thru 1959); one of best Party stores found in Latin America.

\*2) ANTEO, Ltda.  
18 de Julio, 1333

Another excellent source of Communist material; stock is primarily Soviet, but also had some Chicom (thru 1959); also some few SOVBLOC cultural items. No local Party material noted.

3) LIBRERIA BARREIRO y RAMOS  
18 de Julio, 941

An excellent general store; good stock of dictionaries, law, economics, recent political works; some few pro-Communist items, many anti-Communist items; heavy on cultural material.

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\*4) LIVRARIA LOBATO  
San Jose 853

Stock is almost entirely Brazilian publications (in Portuguese); fair, only; reported as Communist outlet, but not very much in evidence when inspected; a source of Brazilian books when one cannot get to Brazil...only such source noted in Spanish-speaking Latin America.

C) Bibliographic Aids

In an area generally poor in bibliographic material, Montevideo is exceptionally poor. The Anuario Bibliografico Uruguayo, previously published by the Biblioteca Nacional (last issue seen by us was 1949 issue, published in 1951), is a dead issue; the librarian at the Biblioteca even had trouble recalling that they had ever published it, and was most emphatic that there were no plans to revive it. Few catalogs or lists of current offerings were found in the various bookstores. EPU (above) had a somewhat dated list of publications offered, in 1959, by Foreign Language Press of Peking, but no lists of Soviet or other Bloc offerings. This city must be covered by physical canvass of the stores...there is no alternative whatsoever.

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## VENEZUELA

### A) General Availability

Due to the unfortunate conjunction of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and a civil holiday which occurred on the following Tuesday, we were able to get only one working day in the stores in Caracas, as business shuts down tight for the full week. Nevertheless, we were able to cover the main Party outlet and a few general stores, and to get some valid idea of availability in Caracas.

While not a major publishing center (the recent political upheavals and the serious problem of inflation make costs prohibitive and profits uncertain), Caracas does have a small publishing industry, and there are hopes for expansion in the not-too-far-distant future. In addition to the few local publications, Caracas appears to be a good source for imported Communist material (one of Latin America's three best Party stores is located here) from the Soviet Bloc and Communist China, and it appears that an increasing amount of Communist-slanted, anti-US, pre-Castro material is being shipped in from Cuba. Much of this latter material, at the moment, consists of Prensa Latina press releases and the Cuban publications such as "Bohemia," "Carteles," and one or two others.

The local Party store is well-stocked with Soviet Communist material, local Party publications, and some Chicom material (but here, again, no Chicom other than the cultural propaganda items is to be found with dates after December 1959). The clerk in the local Party store states that they have orders for a large amount and variety of 1960 Chicom publications, but that "there appears to be some sort of delay" in getting them; he did not know why this should be so, and hoped for delivery soon.

### B) Retail Outlets

There are a fairly large number of bookstores and kiosks in Caracas, many of which carry some Communist material, and often anti-Communist material as well. The more fruitful of these outlets we visited are:

- \* 1) DISTRIBUIDORA MAGRIJA  
Edificio Eduardo Garcia,  
Local #1

One of the three best-stocked Communist Party stores on the continent. Heavy stock of current Soviet publications, some Chicom (up to December 1959), and some local Party material; also carries some anti-US Castro material; stocked the only Spanish-Chinese dictionary found in Latin America (FLP, Peking). No difficulty purchasing here; store willing to order special items from China or USSR for any customer. Has catalog (copies obtained).

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- \*2) **LIBRERIA CRUZ DEL SUR**  
Centro Comercial del Este,  
Local #11, Sabana Grande.

Fairly good general store; some Soviet classics (Marx, Engels, etc.), but not really a Communist outlet judging from his stock.

**C) Bibliographic Aids**

Due to the shortage of available working time, it was not possible to check on the availability of the Anuario Bibliografico Venezolano of the Biblioteca Nacional (last seen in its 1947/48 edition and believed defunct), the Boletin Bibliografico of the Banco Central (also believed defunct), or the Boletin de la Academia de Ciencias Politicas. The Publications Officer was requested to look into the matter, but his off-the-cuff opinion was that all three publications had ceased publication.

MAGRIJA (#1, above) offers a catalog at irregular intervals, and copies of the most recent were obtained. Aside from this, there appear to be no bibliographic aids available in Venezuela; other outlets had no catalogs or lists to offer. Here, too, a periodic physical canvass of the stores is essential.